Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LIMA 05199 272306Z

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ACTION ARA-10

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P R 272245Z JUN 75
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5694
INFO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
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CONFIDENTIAL LIMA 5199

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PGOV, PE

SUBJECT: REMOVAL OF NAVY MINISTER

- 1. THE PERUVIAN NAVY WON A VINDICATING VICTORY IN OBLIGING PRESIDENT VELASCO TO REMOVE NAVY MINISTER FAURA. WE UNDERSTAND NOW THAT VELASCO AND NAVAL OFFICERS ARE JOCKEYING TO NAME THEIR FAVORITES TO KEY NAVY COMMANDS AND POSTS, RAISING THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE FAURA REMOVAL WAS ONLY ROUND ONE OF TWO OR MORE ROUNDS. THE ARMY IS ON ALERT, AS THE NAVY HAS BEEN SINCE THE FAURA SHOWDOWN BEGAN. SOME GUARDIA CIVIL UNITS ARE IN RIOT GEAR.
- 2. EMBASSY OFFICERS ASKED LUIS BEDOYA REYES, A WELL-INFORMED AND SHREWD OBSERVER, WHETHER THE NAVY WOULD TRY TO FACE DOWN VELASCO AGAIN OVER THE ISSUE OF KEY POSTS. BEDOYA DOUBTS IT. HE THINKS THE NAVY WILL SETTLE FOR ITS INITIAL VICTORY. HE AND OTHERS WITH WHOM WE HAVE SPOKEN ALSO BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT THE SUCCESSFUL NAVY CHALLENGE ENDS ANY REMNANT OF MONOLITHIC ARMY FORCES UNITY, OPENS A TIME OF "SELF-CRITICISM" WITHIN THE FORCES, AND IS A MEASURE OF THE DECLINE OF VELASCO'S STRENGTH, PHYSICAL AS WELL AS POLITICAL.

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Subject: REMOVAL OF NAVY MINISTER

TAGS: PGOV, PE, (FAURA)
To: STATE

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